

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 271306Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7348

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE EVENTS IN CAIRO PRESS SEPT 26-27

REF CAIRO 12921,

SUMMARY: PRESS CONTINUES FOCUS ON LEBANON. EGYPT HAS "PROPOSED" SIX POWER SUMMIT MEETING. RAPPORTAGE OF SEMIRAMIS AFFAIR IS GLOATING IN TONE, BUT PRESS SO FAR ABSTAINS FROM EDITORIALS. CHIEF NEWS IS ARRIVAL JUMBLATT. END SUMMARY

1. FOCUS OF LOCAL DAILIES SEPT 26-27 CONTINUES ON LEBANESE EVENTS ALTHOUGH INTENSITY DIMMED SOMEWHAT BY 'ID AL-FITR HOLIDAYS. DAILES SEPT 26 REPORT PRES SARKIS MESSAGE TO PRES SADAT IN WHICH SARKIS URGES ANY SUMMIT, LIMITED OR FULL, TO DISCUSS LEBANESE SITUATION. ARTICLES ALSO NOTE THAT EGYPT HAS PROPOSED SUMMIT IN RIYADH INCLUDING SYRIANS, EGYPTIANS, SAUDIS, KUWAITIS, SARKIS AND PLO. KARMAI'S BLAST AT OUTGOING PRES FRANJIYA IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION ALSO SYMPATHETICALLY REPORTED IN SEPT 26 DAILIES AND GUMHURIYYA FOLLOWS UP SEPT 27 WITH EDITORIAL BLAST AT FRANIYA AND HIS ALLIES.

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2. SEPT 27 CAIRO DAILIES CONCENTRATE ON COMMANDO SEIZURE OF SEMIRAMIS HOTEL IN DAMASCUS PREVIOUS DAY AND BLOODY FOUR HOUR SHOOT OUT WHICH ENSUED. EGYPTIANS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY EMBARRSSING DEGREE OF VIOLENCE WHICH SARG FORCED TO USE TO QUELL TERRORISTS AND AHRAH NOTES GLEEFULLY THAT SARG HAS NOT YET DARED TO RELEASE NAMES OF PERPETRATORS. ONLY GUMHURIYYA, QUOTING PLO SOURCES FROM BEIRUT WHO DENIED PLO/ FATAH INVOLVEMENT IN SEMIRAMIS AFFAIR, MENTIONS THAT ABU NIDAL, "FATAH EXPELLEE NOW RESIDENT NEAR BAGHDAD", RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING OF DAMASCUS OPERATION.

EM AKHBAR CARRIES LEAD STORY SEPT 27 DETAILING BLAST BY PLO LEADER ABU IYAD (SALAH KHALAF) AT SOVIETS FOR ALLEGEDLY GIVING ORDERS FR SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON. ABU IYAD CHARGED THAT SOVIET UNION HAS NOT EXERTED SUFFICIENT PRESSURE ON SYRIA TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANESE OCCUPATION AND CONDEMNED SOVIET ACTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL AS INSUFFICIENT TO EFFECT LEBANESE SOLUTION. AKHBAR, IN TREATMENT OF ABU IYAD COMMENTS, APPEARS TO RELISH OPPORTUNITY TO CONDEMN BOTH SOV- IETS AND SARG AT SAME TIME OVER LEBANESE POLICIES.

4. DAILIES SEPT 26 REPORT THAT DEPRIMIN FONMIN FAHMY MET PREVIOUS EVENING WITH PLO POLITICAL DEPT CHAIRMAN QADDUMI, BUT NO RESULTS OF MEETING REPORTED. SEPT 27 DAILIES REPORT ARRIVAL LATER IN DAY OF KAMAL JUMBLATT, WHO WILL MEET WITH FAHMY PRIOR TO MEETING WITH SADAT IN CAIRO.

5. DAILIES SEPT 27 ALSO REPORT COMMENT TO PRESS BY AMIR OF KUWAIT THAT CHANCES GOOD WITHIN UPCOMING FEW DAYS FOR "LIMITED ARAB SUMMIT IN RIYADH" TO DISCUSS LEBANON. ARTICLES DO NOT SAY WHETHER SARKIS AND ARAFAT TO BE INCLUDED IN DISCUSSIONS.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SEPT 27 DAILIES REPORT WITH RELISH EMBARRASSING (FOR SARG) DRAMA AT SEMIRAMIS HOTEL, OVERALL TONE OF ARTICLES ON LEBANON RELATIVELY DESULTORY AND NO SENSE OF URGENCY DISCERNIBLE RE NEGOTIATIONS ON LEBANON. THIS DOUBTLESS DUE IN LARGE MEASURE TO TORPOR OF BAIRAM HOLIDAYS AND FACT THAT GOE STILL LARGELY ON VACATION.

MATTHESS

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